Conference Reflection

For my conference I worked with Emmett. Emmett is a student who is under the Autism spectrum disorder and emotional impairment disability categories. He is in Kindergarten and as a class they are working on pulling facts from a story and recreating the facts in their own sentences. Emmett has an extreme problem with staying on topic and doing his work without an angry outburst. So for planning his conference, I came in with a few strategies knowing it might be a problem. I has a positive reinforcement of phone time, and I was planning on pulling him aside and working one on one with him because that is what he likes.

Mrs. Kickbusch started by reading a story on beetles. Emmett was fairly engaged in the story and raised his hand to answer questions multiple times. When we got to one on one writing, Emmett was frustrated and did not want to write. So, I engaged him in talking about some of the answers he gave during the story. I praised him on how well he listened and I reminded him that if he finished his work he will be able to play on the cell phone. He put his attitude aside, and focused on his work. He told me some details from the book, we discussed, and then we started writing.

I decided to work on punctuation with Emmett during this writing time. He is very good at sounding out his words and working efficiently when it is one on one. He however, does not have any understanding on how to end the sentence, and with what punctuation. A majority of the class is on point with punctuation, so with that being said, he needed a little extra help with understanding punctuation.

We used a lot of real life examples of sentences and I asked him what he thought was the proper punctuation at the end of the sentence. Some examples were; “Can I please go to the bathroom?” and “I love to play on my phone!” We talked about how what you need to ask something, like going to the bathroom, you need a question mark. Then we discussed when you are really excited about something you can end the sentence with an exclamation point. Then we used the examples from our factual writing to discuss how when we need to be serious, and not ask questions, we use a period. Then, I taught him to make the ending punctuations and we practiced by tracing, then he did it on his own.

At the end of writing time I collected his work to make sure he was understanding and on point with what we had discussed. All of his sentences were awesome! He even wrote a sentence so he could use a question mark. They were all correctly punctuated and looked great. Next time I work with Emmett on writing, I will go over what we have talked about with punctuation, and ask him some questions to make sure he really understands, and what we worked on has stuck with him.

I think I followed many of the practices that we have read about. I asked Emmett to verbalize information on the story we listed too. We worked from what we saw and heard in the story, and what other friends in the class discussed during the story. I then praised Emmett on what he did well! We focused on finding information and using the correct punctuation, rather than every structure of the sentence. We knew that Emmett was very good at answering and remembering questions and facts from the book, and built off his strengths! Working in a one on one setting also built off his strengths because it is a setting he works the best in.

Overall, I thought this conference went very well! I learned a lot from this activity because it really had me focus in on one student and one specific instruction. I think this activity is awesome because you really understand how each student is individual in their learning. Getting to the bottom of one specific issue is important, because when you are working with a student, (especially one with anger problems) you don’t want to overwhelm them with things they need to fix and do. Overall, I think this was one of the most beneficial assignments to really zoom in and focus on one student, to then learn that it is so important to understand what level each of the other students is on academically.